

**Strategic Latency Unleashed**  
**The Role of Technology in a Revisionist World Order – Implications for Special Operations Forces**

**Workshop at Center for Global Security Research**  
**Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory**  
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Change is upon us, shaking the timbers of the world order. Fundamental characteristics of the international system are yielding to new forces and alignments. Behind these geopolitical trends, technology is creating new formulations of military, economic, and political power. This workshop examined the nexus of technology and power and its significance for military operations in the emerging world disorder, with special emphasis on SOF and its evolving missions. The speakers provided expert analysis on the key elements of emerging technology and its significance for US SOF.

**Key Takeaways**

- The changing nature of war and politics has particular relevance for SOF. These changes require concerted efforts by SOF to understand and adapt to the operational environment.
- Scientific progress in many fields, including biotech, materials science, cyber, lasers, and space are creating threats and opportunities for SOF. In the near term, advancements in armor, energetics, energy storage, surveillance, autonomy, human performance, and manufacturing are poised to reshape the battlefield.
- Civilian applications of new technologies such as AI, blockchain, 5G, and autonomous vehicles often outpace military efforts to incorporate the latest innovations, making it essential for SOF to maintain close ties to the private sector.
- USSOCOM is well positioned to apply its core capabilities to the new technological and geopolitical challenges, but needs strategy to guide/prioritize investments of time and money. Not all technologies are equally relevant to the mission.
- Hybrid warfare expands conflict zones beyond the traditional battlefield, and increasingly involves competition to shape public perceptions through cyber operations and social media. Psychological operations have a new significance for SOF.
- SOF must operate in a complex, multi domain environment that requires situational awareness of activities beyond the scope of traditional SOF priorities.

The presentations from this workshop are being written and edited and will be published as a book.